STATE OF NEW YORK

7752

IN SENATE

January 10, 2022

Introduced by Sen. BROUK -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Mental Health

AN ACT directing the commissioner of mental health to establish a maternal mental health workgroup to study and issue recommendations related to maternal mental health and perinatal and postpartum mood and anxiety disorders; and providing for the repeal of such provision upon expiration thereof

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The commissioner of mental health shall establish a maternal mental health workgroup (referred to in this section as the "workgroup") within the office of mental health. The workgroup shall consist of, at the minimum, the commissioner of mental health or his, her or their designee, the commissioner of the office of children and family services or his, her or their designee; the commissioner of the department of health or his, her or their designee; representatives from statewide mental health organizations; representatives from maternal health care provider organizations; representatives from health care provider organizations; representatives from the health insurance industry; and any additional stakeholders that the commissioners deem necessary. At least one-third of the members shall be from historically underrepresented communities that are disproportionately impacted by the underdiagnoses of maternal mental health disorders.

§ 2. Workgroup members shall receive no compensation for their services as members of the workgroup, but shall be reimbursed for their actual expenses incurred in the performance of their duties on the work group. Reimbursement shall allow for historically underrepresented communities to participate wholly in the performance of their duties on the workgroup by providing, if necessary, reimbursements for reasonable expenses incurred that may include, but not be limited to, childcare, travel, meals and lodging.

§ 3. It shall be the duty of the workgroup to study and issue recommendations related to maternal mental health and perinatal and postpartum mood and anxiety disorders. The workgroup shall:

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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a. identify underrepresented and vulnerable populations and risk factors in the state for maternal mental health disorders that may occur during pregnancy and through the first postpartum year;

b. identify and recommend effective, culturally competent, and accessible prevention screening and identification and treatment strategies, including public education and workplace awareness, provider education and training, and social support services;

c. identify successful postpartum mental health initiatives in other states and recommend programs, tools, strategies, and funding sources that are needed to implement similar initiatives in the state;

d. identify and recommend evidence-based practices for health care providers and public health systems;

e. identify and recommend private and public funding models;

f. make recommendations on legislation, policy initiatives, funding requirements and budgetary priorities to address maternal mental health needs in the state;

g. any other relevant issues identified by the workgroup; and

h. submit a final report containing all findings and recommendations to the governor, the temporary president of the senate, the speaker of the assembly, the commissioner of mental health, the commissioner of the office of children and family services, the commissioner of the department of health, the minority leader of the senate and the minority leader of the assembly on or before December 31, 2022.

§ 4. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire two years after such effective date when upon such date the provisions of this act shall be deemed repealed.